

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8937

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4385

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: SAUDI INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENTS IN HORN OF AFRICA

REF: STATE 087111

1. WE HAVE TWO GENERAL COMMENTS ON DRAFT STATEMENT OF ETHIOPIA DEVELOPMENTS, DESIGNED FOR PASSING TO SAUDI GOVT.

A. AS DRAFTED, STATEMENT CAN ONLY HAVE EFFECT OF GIVING SAUDI EVEN MORE JAUNDICED VIEW THAN THEY NOW HAVE OF EPMG, WITH CONSEQUENT UNDESIRABLE IMPACT ON SAUDI POLICIES AND ATTITUDES TOWARD ETHIOPIA, THEREFORE NOT SERVING USG POLICY INTEREST.

B. STATEMENT IS ONE-SIDED AND OVERLY PESSIMISTIC PRESENTATION. IT DOES NOT GIVE CREDIT TO EPMG'S SINCERE EFFORTS TO BETTER LIFE OF PEOPLE, DOES NOT MENTION RELATIVELY HEALTHY ECONOMY (INCLUDING FX POSITION), AND OMITTS ANY MENTION OF ERITREA (IN WHICH IT WOULD SEEM DESIRABLE TO STATE MARXIST AND CHRISTIAN ORIENTATION OF PLF AND SEVERE SPLITS AMONG INSURGENTS THAT MAKE IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION THAT EPMG SAYS ITS WANTS). STATEMENT ALSO ASCRIBES TO GOE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OAU RECOGNITION OF MPLA, WHICH IS NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH FACTS.

2. WE WILL HAVE DETAILED SUGGESTIONS FOR REDRAFT IN LATER MESSAGE.

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HUMMEL

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